

Message Text

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TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NILI, MASS, MPOL, PO, NATO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION

REF: (A) USNATO 771, (B) BONN 2564, (C) USNATO 727,
(D) USNATO 310, (E) STATE 15874, (F) STATE 12319,
(G) 76 STATE 250832, (H) 76 STATE 297128

1. TO ENHANCE CONCRETE ALLIED SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE
FORCE MODERNIZATION, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT POSTS SHOULD
NOW ENCOVERAGE HOST GOVERNMENTS TO COME FORWARD WITH CON-
CRETE OFFERS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. PORTUGUESE HAVE SUB-
MITTED FI'AL ARMY AND AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT LISTS IN BRUSSELS
WHERE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN AD HOC GROUP MEMBERS ARE NOW
UNDER WAY IN PREPARATION FOR FORMAL RECONVENING OF THE
GROUP. FRENCH HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVEN LIST ON INFORMAL BASIS.
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THE US AND FRG WILL BE INFORMING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP
OF THEIR EXTENSIVE COMMITMENTS TO SUPPLY THE PORTUGUESE
BRIGADE WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT DURING 1977.

2. ACTION REQUESTED (EXCEPT BONN, LISBON AND PARIS):
ADDRESSES ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AND
URGE THAT EACH BE PREPARED TO PRESENT CONCRETE OFFERS OF

MILITARY ASSISTANCE AT MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP NOW SCHEDULED
FOR EARLY MARCH. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING DURING

APPROACHES --

-- AS YOU KNOW, THE NATO AD HOC GROUP ON MILITARY ASSIS-
TANCE TO PORTUGAL AND TURKEY WILL BE MEETING IN EARLY
MARCH TO DEFINE THE AREAS IN WHICH EACH ALLY CAN BEST CON-
TRIBUTE TO THE PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION PLAN.

-- PORTUGAL HAS SUBMITTED TO THE ALLIES' REPRESENTATIVES
IN BRUSSELS LISTS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT
WHICH WILL BE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE MODERNIZATION PLAN.

-- WE HOPE EACH ALLY WILL CAREFULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY
EXAMINE ITS OWN CAPABILITY TO SUPPLY A PORTION OF THE
NECESSARY MATERIEL AND BE PREPARED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO
PROVIDING THE EQUIPMENT AT THE UPCOMING MEETING.

-- THE US AND THE FRG HAVE ALREADY SUPPLIED AND INDICATED
WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT LISTED PARA 3, REF. (F).
THIS IS A BEGINNING, BUT IN NO WAY SHOULD IT BE REGARDED
AS PRE-EMPTING ANY SPECIFIC AREAS OF MATERIEL CONTRIBU-
TIONS FOR ANY ONE COUNTRY.

-- WE HOPE EACH ALLY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AN APPRO-
PRIATE PORTION OF THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO ENSURE THAT
THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM RETAINS THE CHARACTER OF AN ALL-
NATO COMMON EFFORT.

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-- WE HOPE TO FOCUS ON THE PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE
PORTUGUESE AIR TRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE AT THE UPCOMING AD HOC
GROUP MEETING. CONSIDERATION OF ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE PORTUGUESE NAVY WILL HAVE TO AWAIT GOP SUBMISSION OF
NAVY NEEDS.

3. FOR PARIS: IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH (DEL PECH) STATEMENT
IN DECEMBER THAT GOF HAD NOT SEEN LISTS, DOD SUPPLIED
COPY OF ARMY AND AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT LISTS WHICH FRENCH
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FORWARDED TO THE MINISTERIAL DELEGA-
TION FOR ARMAMENTS IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. IT WOULD BE
USEFUL FOR THE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES TO KNOW WHAT EQUIPMENT
THE FRENCH MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE
MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP ARE NOW MAKING CONCRETE PLEDGES
OF SUPPORT. YOU MAY WANT TO DRAW ON TALKING POINTS IN
REFTEL G (PARAS A-D) IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH.

4. FOR USNATO: DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES AND CONCURS IN

YOUR INITIATIVE TO UNDERTAKE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO ALLIED
PERMANENT MISSIONS AT BRUSSELS (REF A).

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